RECD
INDEX BUREAU
DEPT. OF STATE

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 1156

Ankara, November 4, 1930.

TREATY DIVISION NOV 1930
NOV 22 1930
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 20 1930
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 1930
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

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To the field
In U. S. A ✓
by to M.I.D. and O.N.I. after

767.68131/6

DEC 5 - 1930

DEC 8 1930

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

1/ I have the honor to enclose herewith in the original
2/ French and in translation the text of the Naval Agreement between Greece and Turkey signed at Ankara on October 30.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph C. Grew.

Enclosures:

1. Naval Agreement between Greece and Turkey.
2. Translation.

Copy sent E. I. C., Paris.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

# ACCORD NAVAL ENTRE LA GRECE ET LA TURQUIE
## signé à Ankara le 30 Octobre 1930.

Les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes imbues de principes qui les ont conduites à la signature du Pacte d'Amitié et d'Arbitrage signé en date de ce jour et désireuses de prévenir de vaines augmentations de leurs dépenses pour des armements navals et de marcher de paire dans la voie de la limitation parallèle de leurs forces respectives en tenant compte des conditions particulières à chacune d'elles, s'engagent à ne procéder à aucune commande, acquisition ou construction d'unités de guerre ou de leurs armements sans aviser au préalable l'autre Partie Contractante, six mois à l'avance, afin que l'occasion soit ainsi fournie aux deux Gouvernements de prévenir éventuellement la course aux armements navals au moyen d'un échange amical de vues et d'explications de part et d'autre dans un esprit de parfaite sincérité.

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.

# NAVAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY

signed at Ankara on October 30, 1930.

The High Contracting Parties, imbued with the principles which have led them to the signature of the Pact of Friendship and Arbitration signed on this day, and desirous of preventing useless increases in their expenditures for naval armaments, and desirous of advancing side by side along the path of the equal limitation of their respective forces while taking into consideration conditions peculiar to each, agree not to negotiate any order, acquisition or construction of war vessels or of their armaments without previously notifying the other Contracting Party six months in advance, in order that in this event an opportunity may thus be furnished to both Governments to prevent a race in the matter of naval armaments by a friendly exchange of views and explanations on both sides in a spirit of perfect sincerity.

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# DOCUMENT FILE

# NOTE

SEE 767.6811/3 FOR #1523

FROM Greece ( Fisher ) DATED Nov.6, 1930

TO

NAME

1—1127 ofo

INDEX BUREAU

767.6813/7

REGARDING:

Comments on speech by Venizelos concerning agreements relating to neutrality, conciliation, commerce and naval parity between Greece and Turkey.

Wi

Athens, November 6, 1930.

No. 1525.

Subject: Mr. Venizelos' Speaks on the Greco-Turkish Treaties.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

On November third Mr. Venizelos made his expected public speech in explanation of the recently concluded Greco-Turkish series of agreements relating to neutrality, conciliation, commerce, and naval parity. His address was made in the open air in Constitution Square and his rather brief remarks were enthusiastically received by enormous crowds, thus abundantly vindicating the courage he displayed in forcing through what would have been an unpopular move by any other Greek leader.

As was expected, Mr. Venizelos reiterated his former statements to the effect that a new era in Greco-Turkish relations had been entered; that all thought of a revision of the Lausanne Treaty had been abandoned; and that there was every reason for future friendly relations between the two States now that both

had

had taken on a national character through the exchange of populations. Such views would have indeed been startling a short while ago, but since they were expressed with even greater warmth at Ankara, they created little comment and no important opposition.

In fact, Mr. Venizelos painted such a sanguine picture of mutual admiration that a sceptic could not refrain from asking why constant strife has marked the relations between the two neighbors for centuries. I do not mean to imply that Mr. Venizelos has deceived himself to the point where he believes that future difficulties in the Eastern Mediterranean are inconceivable, which is practically what he has been saying. He is by far too astute to take the sentiments exchanged at Ankara literally.

At the same time, I do not feel that it is fair to accuse him of insincerity, since the standards for judging frankness vary from those commonly accepted when one is negotiating for one's country. I am sure Mr. Venizelos hopes that the recent agreements mark the closing of an unfortunate chapter in the history of his country, - but after all, a chapter far from the end of the books

As Mr. Skinner pointed out in his despatch No. 1512 of October 25, 1930, the age-old urge of Greece toward the East can hardly be halted by the signing of documents, and I feel sure that Mr. Venizelos was influenced by a desire to strengthen the position of the sixty-odd thousand Greeks now living in Constantinople. With such an influential minority, which will probably be added to, Greece will have to be consulted should Turkey ever be further dismembered.

If this country produced statesmen of the Venizelos calibre as a regular thing, one might be optimistic regarding the outlook for a peaceful settlement of the natural conflict of Greek and Turkish interests. However, with the notoriously unhappy penchant that Greece has for government, in contrast to the fine theories of rulership that have always been characteristic of Greek thinkers, one may be permitted a certain cynicism as to the "new era." I believe, however, that it will prove more lasting than the "new era" theory of American prosperity that our Wall Street leaders so confidently prated about from 1925 until the stock-market crash in 1929.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Carl A. Fisher

Chargé d'Affaires ad Interim.

Copy to E.I.C., Paris.

CAF/ewf

TREATY DIVISION
JAN 17 1931
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IN

LEGATION OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Athens, December 23, 1930.

No. 1567

DEPT OF STATE
Jan. 8-31
JAN 8 31

Subject: Naval Agreement between Greece and Turkey.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 19 1931
DIVISION OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 8, 1931
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

FOR DISTRIBUTION
To

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN. 15 1931
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

Copy to ONI

767.68131/8
INDEXED

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

JAN 15 1931

767.6813

Sir:

The discussion of the recently arranged Greco-Turkish Agreement before the Hellenic Chamber provided Mr. Venizelos, the Prime Minister, with an opportunity to analyze with some precision the meaning of the understanding respecting naval armament in both countries. The essential feature of the agreement, it will be recalled, is that before proceeding to the extension of either existing fleet, the country concerned will give six months' notice of its intentions to the other. The question was raised in Parliament, what would happen if the six months should go by without bringing forth an answer from the other party, and what would happen if the reply should be unfavorable to the proposed change or changes. The Prime Minister said:

FILED
JAN 20 1931

> "I shall be permitted to observe, first, that the delay of six months is not stipulated in order to oblige the party which makes the demand to wait six months before passing a contract.

This delay

"This delay is established in order that it may be employed by the two States to discuss the question and furnish reciprocal explanations. Should we decide, for example, to eliminate the large ships which we possess in the "LEMNOS" and the "KILKIS;" should we decide (this will be in any case under another government than mine) to construct a large battleship, this government would address itself to Turkey to ask whether she entertained objections; whether she considered the new order as a rupture of the equilibrium. The Turkish Government might answer that the equilibrium would be broken by the building of such a large vessel and that, in consequence, it would proceed to order a number of small vessels, or it might ask the Hellenic Government to dispossess itself of a number of small ships.

"You ask me 'what will happen if good faith is not shown in this discussion?' "Why, then nothing will have value if our friendly relations of today are not maintained. If suspicion appears, then the protocol will have no value, just as the pact also will lose all value.

"If the two parties cannot agree, if they plunge themselves into new armaments, such is their right. This question cannot become the object of an arbitral solution, according to my view. We have not discussed this detail, but I believe sincerely that in it will be found to be the sovereign right of the two States."

Thereupon, Mr. Venizelos entered upon a short discussion of the advances made in international intercourse during the last few years.

"Many questions," said he, "which were considered as absolutely within the sovereign jurisdiction of the State ten or fifteen years ago, are considered today by the International Court at The Hague as dependent upon arbitration. It may be, therefore, in consequence of the evolution of international law, that we shall arrive at a different conception of this subject; but, for the moment, we are absolutely in agreement that, should we have recourse to arbitration, the reply would be: 'Gentlemen; the manner in which a State shall defend itself is the sovereign right of the nation; therefore, you are in error in coming here.'"

It will have been observed from the foregoing, and from the text of the Naval Agreement itself, that it is more of a "gentlemen's agreement" than a positive arrangement. The two countries have tacitly consented to order no more war vessels for the present. They accept the existing circumstances as establishing parity between them sufficient for practical purposes, and will give six months' notice in regard to possible changes. If the present happy relations between Greece and Turkey continue, and there is every reason in the world to suppose that they will, the existing agreement will suffice. If the friendly relations break down, each country is free to build as much or as little as it likes.

Respectfully yours,

Robert P. Skinner.

RPS/cwf

# DOCUMENT FILE

# NOTE

767.68131/9

SEE 867.9111/333 FOR [illegible]

FROM Istanbul ( Allen ) DATED Feb. 25, 1931

NAME

TO [illegible]

1—1172 GPO

REGARDING: the ratification on February 12, 1931, by the Grand National Assembly, of the treaty of amity, neutrality, conciliation and arbitration which had been concluded with Greece on October 30, 1930, as well as the protocol concerning limitation of naval armament annexed thereto.

[illegible]

# DOCUMENT FILE

# NOTE

767.68113/10

SEE 867.044/131 FOR #1282

FROM Turkey ( Grew ) DATED June 3, 1931

XXX NAME 1—1172

REGARDING: the Protocol relative to the Limitation of Naval Forces annexed to the Turco-Greek Treaty of Friendship, Neutrality, Conciliation and Arbitration, as contained in LA LEGISLATION TURQUE.

dew

# DOCUMENT FILE

# NOTE

SEE 868.34/134 FOR #1763

FROM Greece ( Skinner ) DATED June 23, 1931
TO NAME

1—1172 ...

REGARDING:

Informs that in accordance with the recent naval agreement between Greece and Turkey, Greece will inform Turkey of the former's intention to construct certain naval vessels.

Wi

767.68113/11

Athens, June 25, 1931.

No. 1763.

Subject: The Greek Naval Program.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

The Department has certainly not failed to note with surprise and interest from my despatch No. 1749, dated June 15, 1931, that the Hellenic Government has adopted a naval expansion program, calling for expenditures over a period of ten years.

We are now informed that some time next week, that is to say as soon as the law relative to the naval program can be passed, the Hellenic Government will inform Turkey of its decision to proceed, with a delay of six months, to the beginning of work upon 4"counter-destroyers."

According to the "HESTIA:"

> "This announcement will be made to the government at Angora in conformity with the Greco-Turk accord, and will be limited to the announcement of the order placed for ships, likewise the decision to render useless old battle-ships which will be demolished and sold. It is possible that Turkey will be equally informed that Greece will begin work shortly on other small units in order to make up for the loss of tonnage resulting from the disappearance of the battle-ship.

"According

"According to certain information, the communication which Greece will thus make to Turkey will not give rise to any observations from the Turkish Government, as the Turkish Government will recognize Greek rights in the matter."

Naturally the proposed immediate expenditure for war-ships and the larger program to which I have alluded is justified by the old, old story of preparation for defense. I cannot but feel, myself, that the moment is unfortunately chosen for placing these orders and that if, as a result of friendly pressure in the opposite direction, Greece could even now withdraw from the position described, it would have a happy effect. Possibly the Department might like to send me a communication on this question, the substance of which I could submit to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in a friendly and informal way.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Robert P. Skinner

RPS/owf

COPY TO E. I. C., PARIS.

# DOCUMENT FILE

# NOTE

767.68/13/12

SEE 767.68/690 FOR #1882

FROM Greece ( Fisher ) DATED Oct.8,1931.

TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Ratifications of the series of treaties, signed at Ankara on October 27,1930, were exchanged on October 6,1931.

kn

Central File: Decimal File 767.6813, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Political., Turkey And Greece, Limitation Of Armaments., November 4, 1930 - Oct. 8, 1931. November 4, 1930 - October 8, 1931. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111393599%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 20 June 2025.